Smoking by children

3278. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent survey has indicated that the children studying in the VI and above grade take to smoking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to prevent the youngsters from smoking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The India Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a school based survey in grades 8-10, estimates that 7.2% of students currently smoke.

Section 6 of the The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' prohibit sale of tobacco products to persons below the age of eighteen and restricts sale with a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions. These provisions have come into force from 1.5.2004 and 1.12.2004 respectively. Likewise, Rules relating to Specified warnings required to be printed on all tobacco packs have also been notified and would come into effect on 1.6.2007. These measures would help sensitize the youth about the ill effects of tobacco.

The State Governments, who are the implementing agencies, have been advised to put in place necessary mechanism to bring about greater awareness and to implement the provisions of law.

Health delivery system in hilly areas

3279. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the health delivery system undertaken in the hilly areas of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh, has achieved the desired targets;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;